

Waukesha County

The Waukesha County Criminal Justice Collaborating Council is a leader in the CJCC movement and is representative of a more formally constituted organization. Its experiences may be instructive to other courts looking to structure a similar collaboration. The CJCC in Waukesha County was formalized in October 2002 when the County Board established it by ordinance. Several informal working groups with similar membership and goals preceded the CJCC.

The membership reflects the keen importance of bringing decision-makers, rather than their representatives, to the table. The Chief Judge is the current chair, and members include the Clerk of Circuit Courts, District Attorney, First Assistant Public Defender, County Executive, County Board Chair, Sheriff, Police Chiefs' Association Chair, Health and Human Services Director, DOC Field Supervisor, and the Mayor of the City of Waukesha. The council is considering adding two other members.

The Waukesha CJCC has adopted a Mission and a Vision Statement, established formal committees and sub-committees and adopted bylaws. See [link to Bylaws](#) for more information.

The Waukesha CJCC also has a full-time contracted coordinator - funding for the coordinator was included in the budget when the council was formed. The coordinator handles scheduling of committee meetings, meeting materials, coordinates and evaluates projects, and represents the council at state and national conferences.

A Sampling of the Waukesha CJCC Initiatives:

Pretrial Screening Service: This CJCC program screens all pretrial inmates to collect and verify information on the defendants and their cases. The data speeds up initial appearances, and is compiled and used by the CJCC to assess the need for creating other diversion programs.

Pretrial Supervision Program: The staff conducts screening interviews with defendants referred at initial bail or probable cause hearings and develops the required supervision plans, which may include drug or alcohol treatment or testing, or regular contacts. If the defendants are released pending trial, the program monitors their activities in the community. Defendants who require drug, alcohol, or mental health treatment are referred to the appropriate agencies.

Community Transition Program: This program serves defendants by connecting them to treatment for alcohol or drug addictions, mental health

issues, or other disabilities that carry high rates of recidivism. To reduce defendants' chances of re-entering jail, it also provides aftercare services such as housing, help complying with probation rules, and assistance in getting to court.

Contracted Community Support Program: The CJCC partnered with the Wisconsin Department of Corrections to share operating costs and offer this program, which coordinates and compiles community service opportunities available to inmates who have been granted Huber work-release privileges.

Operating After Revocation Program: The OAR program began in spring 2004 and is designed to reduce the number of court activities, the number of defendants who fail to appear in court, and the number of jail days served in cases involving operating after revocation offenses. In collaboration with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, the staff provides defendants with copies of the defendants' driving records and information on any outstanding court charges or fines, and assists them in determining whether or when it is legal or feasible to obtain a valid driver's license.